



Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot

Chelsea, MA

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5101)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

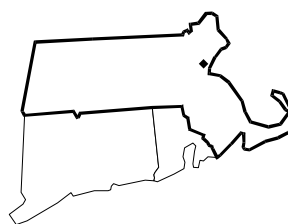
EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. Since 1995, EPA has funded more than 150 Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilots, at up to \$200,000 each, to support creative two-year explorations and demonstrations of brownfields solutions. The Pilots are intended to provide EPA, states, tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

BACKGROUND

EPA has selected the City of Chelsea for a Brownfields Pilot. Chelsea is a waterfront suburb of Boston. Approximately one-third of the city's 2.2 square miles is commercial or industrial land that once housed heavy industries or currently serves as industrial storage. Many of these sites in the city are vacant or underused properties preventing safe public access to the city's waterfront and border the city's residential neighborhoods. Nearly one-quarter of the city's 28,710 residents live below the poverty line, per capita and household incomes are two-thirds of the state average, and unemployment is 2% higher than the state average. In addition, almost half of the city's residents are minorities.

The Pilot will focus on the 43-acre Everett Avenue Urban Renewal District. The district comprises the highest concentration of contiguous, underused land in the city and is located near the regional highway system, downtown Boston, Logan Airport, and other recently redeveloped land. The area is characterized by unknown contamination and a fear of liability, which has hindered cleanup and redevelopment.

PILOT SNAPSHOT



Chelsea, Massachusetts

Date of Announcement:
May 1998

Amount: \$200,000

Profile: The Pilot targets two demonstration sites within the Everett Avenue Urban Renewal District. The District is comprised of 43 acres of underdeveloped industrial and commercial land.

Contacts:

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(617) 889-8233

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U.S. EPA - Region 1
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Visit the EPA Region 1 Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/region01/remed/brnflld/>

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>

OBJECTIVES

The city's objective is to unlock the economic potential of the Everett Avenue Urban Renewal District's brownfields by conducting environmental assessments, and educating and involving local residents. The Pilot will assess and plan for the cleanup of an 8-acre portion of the 43-acre targeted area that the city will acquire through negotiation or eminent domain in early 1998. The Pilot also will conduct initial site investigations in the publicly-owned areas of the remaining 35 acres of the district, to gather information to support efforts to persuade private property owners that cleanup and redevelopment is a viable option.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:

- Reviewing the results of a previously conducted preliminary investigation of the Everett Avenue Urban Renewal District, in order to guide Pilot sampling activities;
- Conducting detailed sampling in the eight-acre portion of the target area to characterize the extent and degree of contamination and the risks to human health and the environment;
- Preparing cleanup plans for the eight-acre parcel to facilitate redevelopment;
- Conducting limited sampling of publicly-owned land in the remaining 35-acre target area; and
- Performing community outreach, including supporting public meetings, and communicating the results of environmental testing in the district.

The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.